

I hope all Members of Congress will join me in welcoming President Chen as he transits through the United States.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
DENNIS MORTON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dennis Morton, committed public servant, Vietnam War Veteran, and friend and mentor to many, upon the occasion of his retirement, following 32 years of dedicated service within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Morton's tenure at HUD reflects vision, ingenuity, endless energy and strong leadership, all focused on ensuring the availability of quality housing for the most vulnerable individuals of our society—our struggling and our poor.

Mr. Morton's service at HUD began in 1977, when he was hired as a Realty Specialist in the Housing Management Division. Mr. Morton concentrated his efforts on all phases of acquisition, purchase and restoration of multifamily properties. As they have for decades, these properties exist as a basic yet vital need for thousands of residents in Cleveland and beyond—a dignified and safe place to call home.

Even though HUD has reorganized several times since its inception, Mr. Morton's unwavering focus on transforming bankrupt multifamily properties into vibrant structures, has provided quality housing for thousands of citizens of all ages, from young families to the elderly. From Realty Specialist, to Public Trust Officer, to Director of the Federal Housing Authority Multifamily Program Center Office in Cleveland, Mr. Morton directed the acquisition and rehabilitation of numerous public and senior housing units, including Longwood Apartments, Reserve Square and the award-winning Arbor Park Village.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dennis Morton, whose dedicated work as a HUD administrator has provided a safe home for the most vulnerable residents of our community. Mr. Morton's legacy at HUD will continue to serve as a brilliant example for all those who will follow in his path. His vital contribution continues to offer shelter, dignity, and for many, the necessary support for their journey toward personal independence.

CONGRATULATING PHILLIP'S  
FLOWERS AND GIFTS ON BEING  
NAMED 2005 "RETAILER OF THE  
YEAR" BY THE ILLINOIS RETAIL  
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION  
(IRMA)

**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friends at Phillip's Flowers in Westmont, Illinois. On September 21, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, IRMA will

honor Phillip's Flowers as the 2005 "Retailer of the Year" for its commitment to quality, customer service, and floral industry improvement.

Phillip's Flowers deserves to be recognized and honored in this way for its many accomplishments. In the 82 years since James and Helen Phillip started Phillip's Flowers, it has grown to become a Chicago area institution. Since 1923, the founders and their offspring have grown and improved the business to the point where it now ranks among the top 20 florists in the country in terms of delivery volume. In the 1980's, Phillip's helped launch a cooperative delivery program to expand the business's service reach throughout the region and nation. And its service on the American Floral Endowment Board and the Society of American Florists has helped shape the floral industry as a whole. These accomplishments alone are worthy of this high honor.

Mr. Speaker, when the late Pope John Paul II visited Chicago in 1979, Phillip's Flowers was selected to supply more than 17,000 chrysanthemums for the occasion. When Chicago Magazine ran its 2002 Readers Choice Awards, Phillip's Flowers was chosen as "Chicago's favorite florist." And when IRMA in 2001 selected the top Retailers of the 20th Century, Phillip's was honored among them. These honors and superlatives are reserved for only the finest businesses, and Phillip's Flowers has clearly deserved them.

But perhaps most important of all, Phillip's has provided beautiful flowers for many of my constituents' most important moments in life—weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and special birthdays and anniversaries.

I congratulate Phillip's Flowers on receiving the "Retailer of the Year" award, and I wish the people of Phillip's the very best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF 100 YEARS OF  
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Secondary Schools (CSS) of Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan, which are located in the Third Congressional District of Michigan, which I proudly represent.

The Catholic schools have a long and illustrious history in our area, serving thousands of children and their families for the past century. The Catholic Secondary Schools of Greater Grand Rapids are pioneering coeducational high schools whose conception, growth, and evolution were driven largely by the desire to offer students a quality, Catholic education. Catholic Central High School opened its doors in September 1906, as Catholic Central for boys and Sacred Heart Academy for girls. Established by Bishop Joseph Richter, with the support of Father Robert W. Brown of St. James and Father John Schmitt of St. Andrew, the first graduating classes consisted of 7 boys and 20 girls. The decision to open a central Catholic high school, let alone a co-educational one, was unprecedented in the Nation at that time. Later growth led to the opening of West Catholic High School in 1962.

This innovative diocesan co-educational school would survive both world wars, the Great Depression, fire, financial stress and clergy shortage. Along the way it inspired hundreds of other schools nationwide and grew into two schools with multiple facilities. The 2 high schools have produced more than 27,000 graduates and thousands of community leaders.

The 2005–06 school year marks the centennial anniversary of Catholic high school education in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Catholic Central and West Catholic's success represents the united effort of the bishop, parish clergy, teaching Sisters and parents. Together they were the foundation that helped realize the dream of having a Catholic high school education in Grand Rapids. This centennial is a true celebration and testament to the enduring resilience of Catholic high school education in Grand Rapids.

Graduates of the CSS have entered into religious life; careers in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, law, education and coaching, accounting, banking, engineering and retailing and many other walks of life, contributing in a positive, moral, generous and caring fashion to the communities in which their homes and businesses are located, particularly West Michigan.

For nearly a century, the mission of the CSS of Greater Grand Rapids has been to empower students to define their vision and pursue their goals with confidence, competence and Christian generosity. In an environment deeply rooted in faith formation, student achievement and appreciation of God-given talents, Catholic Central and West Catholic students are challenged to become fully integrated persons who lead through service. CSS, in dynamic partnerships with families, alumni and the community, promote learning for everyone, encourage understanding and embracing of diversity, and establish a foundation for life-long learning.

Please join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Secondary Schools of Greater Grand Rapids.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROYAL  
FAMILY AND PEOPLE OF THAILAND

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank the people, especially the royal family, of Thailand.

In my lifetime, the people of Thailand, guided by a benevolent and wise royal family, have been among America's best friends. Throughout the ups and downs of the Vietnam era, the Thai's have stood with us steadfastly, even when it was uncomfortable for them to do so. They have also played a tremendous humanitarian role by taking in refugees from tyranny from all directions.

Their generosity and friendship is recognized, respected and appreciated. In a time when millions of Americans are suffering the disastrous affects of Hurricane Katrina, they have stepped forward to offer a helping hand. They have donated thirty tons of humanitarian goods such as food and blankets. It is inspiring to see that there are countries who appreciate our help in their times of need and are